



MONTEREY NEWS

JUNE 1996
VOLUME XXVI · Number 6



ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Annual Town Meeting was called to order by Moderator Mark Makuc at 9 a.m. on Saturday, May 3.

On the Ballot. The Town elected Fred Chapman to the Select Board by a vote of 121/103 in the only contest for office. Mr. Chapman will replace Stefan Grotz, who retired from the Board this year. Weighted voting in the Southern Berkshire Regional School District was approved. The weight of member town votes will reflect the ratio of a town's population to that of the District; the weighted vote will be divided equally when any town is represented by more than one member. Authorization for the SBRSD to establish a stabilization fund was also approved.

The Town voted 155/68 to accept the gift of Edith Wilson's property and residence on New Marlborough Road, as provided in her will. (The will also called for the Monterey Cultural Council to select antiques and works of art left by Ms. Wilson for the Town; voters passed Article 21 of the warrant, authorizing the Cultural Council to do so.)

Warrant Approved. All but two articles on the warrant passed as presented. Wildlife control expenses, which had been substantially lowered from \$1,500 last year, was raised from \$500 to \$1000 for 1997. Dale Duryea acknowledged that many of his services are uncompensated.

A proposed bylaw allowing home businesses generated more debate than



MAGGIE LEONARD

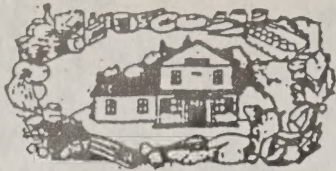
any other article. Fears were expressed by Gige O'Connell, Peter Brown, Dean Amidon, and Steve Bohn about excessive and/or unsightly commercialization in Monterey. Maggie Leonard and Wayne Burkhart of the Planning Board, which had written the by-law presented in the warrant article, explained that it simply defines and limits commercial activity already existing in town. Furthermore, Ms. Leonard pointed out, the proposed by-law requires a special permit for any home-business building larger than 600 square feet, a constraint not in the present zoning by-law. Jed Lipsky pointed out that although Monterey has many second-home residents, it also is home to many who make their living here. A

successful amendment to the article changed the words "an occupation limited to the home" to "an occupation involving use of home space," because many such businesses extend activity beyond the home. Display and sale of home-generated products is permitted, whereas retail shops are prohibited. Town Meeting passed the amended article by a vote of 55/18.

Schools. Jed Lipsky, School Committee Representative, commended the administration and faculty of SBRSD, Mt. Everett High School specifically, for raising education standards with the Challenge Program while containing District expenditures, thus responding to concerns voiced at last year's Meeting. Mr. Lipsky invited Monterey citizens to appreciate improvement by visiting Mt. Everett. Led by Peter Brown, the Meeting applauded Superintendent Tom Consolati for his years of conscientious care for the students of the area. He, in turn, thanked Monterey for its long-term commitment to funding the District. "Though you [Monterey] debate, you always support."

Cost of Police. Dick Tryon livened the Meeting when he unsuccessfully attempted to lower police protection funding from \$22,619 to \$12,619. Police Chief Gareth Backhaus reviewed the services performed by the Department, reminding him of tornado expenses, the burning of the house at the intersection of Routes 23 and 57, and, mainly, increased responses by the Monterey force. Jack Ryder asked the amount of funds col-

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lected by traffic tickets, and Chief Backhaus reported that last year \$10,000 was ticketed, half of which went to the state.

Library Improvements. The meeting voted \$15,000 to extend the back of the Library with an 8'x16' workroom. Presently, work is done in the children's area. "Not a good situation," said John Higgins, Library Chair, "for either the children or the work." This money will be combined with the Edith Wilson grant for library improvement. In response to Cynthia Weber's suggestion that the handicap ramp be moved to this location, Higgins said that the expense would be prohibitive. Anne Marie Makuc told the Meeting that over the years the Library has asked for very little, thanks to donations.

Miscellany. The Town will purchase a \$40,000 one-ton dump truck to replace the oldest truck, which requires expensive repair. The Town appropriated \$5,000 to celebrate Monterey's 150th anniversary next year. Gige O'Connell explained that commemorative items such as mugs, plates, and tee shirts will be purchased and then sold, returning funds to the Town.

Michael Marcus spoke about the defibrillator which the Meeting voted to purchase for the Fire Department at a cost of \$7,000. This amazing apparatus is effective in saving the lives of heart attack victims.

The meeting ended with rousing applause for Peter Vallianos, who has served the Town for nineteen years.

— Jane Black

THE BIDWELL HOUSE

The Bidwell House Museum has been undergoing some restoration this spring. The mantelpiece and chimney that was damaged by fire during the open hearth cooking demonstration last September 30 has been very carefully restored. West Cummington Stone and Wood was the successful bidder for the project. They have a unique approach to chimney repair. Ernie Zuraw actually climbs down inside the entire length of the chimney to inspect and repair it. They rebuilt the eighteenth-century beehive oven by removing damaged bricks, grinding down and reusing the existing mortar, and reusing antique bricks. The damaged panel over the fireplace was restored and replaced.

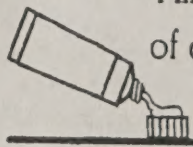
The other project currently underway is the restoration of the woodshed or small barn in front of The Bidwell House. This is an early nineteenth-century structure which has evidence of use for wood storage and, at some time, a barn for horses and chickens. The barn suffered damage during the heavy winter snows; a large portion of the roof caved in. The new roof is now being replaced with cedar shingles and the loft, a feature long missing, is being replaced.

Even with all this work, The Bidwell House is in serious need of further repair. The roof of the main building needs replacing, the exterior needs painting, the windows require reglazing, there are several large trees threatening the house that need to be removed, and the large stone retaining wall in front of the house needs to be rebuilt. In addition, the other remaining outbuilding on the property needs restoration. To do this work, the Museum has applied for a matching grant from the Massachusetts Historical Society. If the application is successful, The Bidwell House will need to raise the matching money by November of this year, so fund-raisers will be scheduled during the summer and fall.

On May 14 The Bidwell House was host to the Lee Historical Commission. Commission members were given a tour of the museum prior to their meeting. The Museum is striving to make surrounding towns more aware of the house

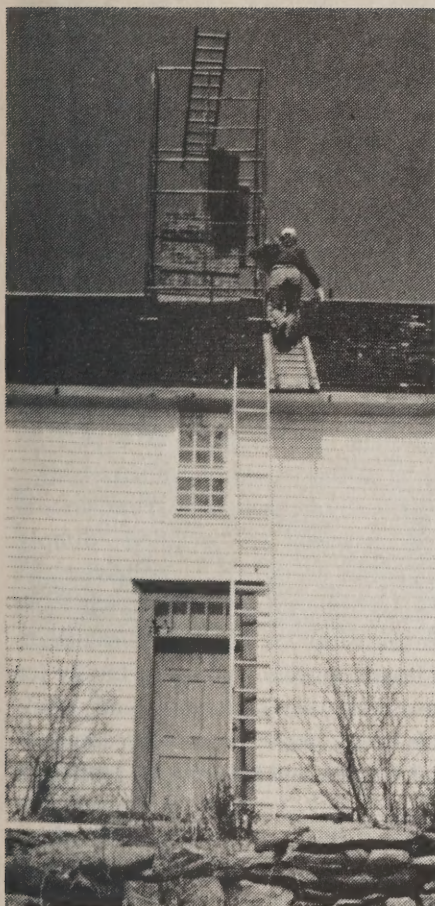
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*Mason Ernie Zuraw prepares to enter
The Bidwell House chimney.*

and property to boost admissions and memberships.

Quilt Day in Monterey will be held on Sunday, June 2, beginning at 1 p.m. The Museum will provide a historical backdrop for a fabulous antique quilt exhibit. In addition, Monterey's Carole Zarin, a hand quilter, will give a lecture and demonstration. Participants are encouraged to bring their old quilts for possible identification. Don't miss this opportunity to see the Museum in fine array. Admission: adults \$5, Museum members free. Information please call 528-6888.

— Anita Carroll-Weldon

THE TOWN

The next quarterly meeting of all town officials and interested citizens will be held June 18 at 7 p.m. in the Town Hall. First on the agenda will be an open discussion of how best to handle acquisition of the McLaughlin/Wilson property. On May 20 the Cultural Council, descendant of the earlier Arts Council, declined the mandate of the Edith Wilson will which required that the Council select art works and antiques from her estate for the Town. The current Cultural Council considers the task to be outside their chief function, which is to secure matching grants. They asked the Select Board to appoint a separate council for the purpose.

Monterey is one of twelve Berkshire towns participating in a septic system repair loan program sponsored by the Berkshire Housing Development Corporation. Eligibility for these low interest loans is based on income and number of occupants using the system. Anyone who has a system needing repair may pick up information and an application at the Town Hall, or phone 413-499-1630.

On May 6 Fred Chapman, newly elected to the Select Board, was sworn into office by Town Clerk Barbara Swann. Gige O'Connell was elected Chair. The Board's regular Monday meeting time was moved from 7:30 to 7 p.m.

Police Chief Gareth Backhaus advised the Board that Harry Vickerman

cannot continue as crossing guard for the remainder of the school year due to illness. The Board voted to have Gloria and Thomas Vickerman fill the job, contingent upon availability.

On May 13 use of the beach by non-residents was discussed, and beach passes were under consideration.

Dick Tryon continued his protest (expressed at Town Meeting) regarding a \$7,000 overrun in the police protection budget. He wondered why police are not limited to emergency calls, and questioned the practice of issuing speeding tickets outside the center of town. Select Board Chair Gige O'Connell responded that Chief Backhaus had assured the Board there would be no further cost overruns, and Board member Peter Brown said that he assumes some of the blame for overrun, because he had not accurately informed Backhaus of his balance. Tryon commented that the Finance Committee "works like hell" only to see more money allotted at Town Meeting.

Following the recommendation of the Solid Waste Committee, the Board voted unanimously to appoint Nancy Marcus to the Committee for a term that expires June 30, 1997. The Board also voted unanimously to appoint Albert Adams of the District Department of Veteran Services as Veterans' Agent for a term expiring June 30, 1997.

— Jane Black

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SEEDS OF HISTORY

The Great Bean Revival. The Eastern Native Seed Conservancy and The Bidwell House co-sponsored the First Annual Berkshire County Old Time Bean Planting Day on May 25 on the grounds of The Bidwell House.

Adults and children helped to plant the Berkshire Cranberry Bean and the Stockbridge Indian Bean, two rare varieties with a special place in Berkshire County history, in the new heirloom garden at The Bidwell House.

The morning also included an old-time community bean shelling bee, talks on heirloom gardening, a traditional herbal "Mai Bowle" punch, and herb and edible-plant walks conducted by the staff of The Bidwell House and the Conservancy. Participants learned about history and the natural world that has nourished and sustained the peoples of this region, while helping to preserve a valuable part of that natural world. They had some fun, too.

The Eastern Native Seed Conservancy found the Berkshire Cranberry Bean still being grown by Fred Kimberley in his home garden in Otis, Massachusetts. Collected on the Stockbridge-Munsee Indian Reservation in Bowler, Wisconsin about thirty years ago, the Stockbridge Indian Bean may represent one of Berkshire County's older living plants. Although its history is not entirely clear, this bean may have grown in our region for more than 700 years, and entered Berkshire County with the Mahican Indians about 250 years ago. The Eastern Native Seed Conservancy has brought the Stockbridge Indian Bean back home to Berkshire County.

Anita Carroll-Weldon, Lawrence Davis-Hollander, and Tom Weldon were all on hand for the Great Bean Revival. Ms. Carroll-Weldon is Director and Curator of The Bidwell House, and a specialist in social history. Mr. Davis-Hollander is Director of the Eastern Native Seed Conservancy, an ethnobotanist and an expert on gardening, heirloom food plants and seed conservation, and native American agriculture. Mr. Weldon is chief horticulturist for The Bidwell House and the Conservancy. He is an expert on

heirloom gardening and traditional farm techniques, and is responsible for installation of the heirloom garden at The Bidwell House.

The Conservancy. The Eastern Native Seed Conservancy (a nonprofit organization founded in 1994 and based in Berkshire County) works to conserve plants used for food, medicine, and other primary needs that are native or adapted to the Northeast. The Conservancy relies on short-term seed banking (plantings every two or three years) to help heirloom varieties adapt to changing environmental conditions and, insofar as possible, to maintain the cultural practices associated with the plants. Each new planting represents a chance to increase seed stocks, to preserve heirloom varieties as viable crops, and to preserve a wider genetic base for the food crops on which we all depend for sustenance.

The Conservancy's Native Seeds Project focuses on conserving eastern Native American seed stock, returning seed to Native Americans, and developing programs to renew traditionally based agriculture in the Northeast. The Conservancy has already located, grown out, and returned seeds of a number of varieties to Native American nations.

The focus of CRESS, the Conservancy's Conservation and Regional Exchange by Seed Savers, is conservation of varieties used for economic purposes by all the inhabitants of the region. Participants in CRESS locate, grow out, and exchange non-hybrid heirloom varieties.

Quest with Prizes. The Seed Conservancy wants your family heirlooms—not the family silver, but any old-time vegetable and flower varieties grown in the Northeast for more than one generation. Some seeds may be the last of their kind, and the Conservancy is dedicated to saving them from extinction.

If you or someone you know grows plants from seeds that have been passed down through family or friends, you can help. If the seeds are from plant varieties that date back to the 1940s or earlier, the Conservancy would like a sample. The Conservancy will plant some of these

sample seeds, tend the plants, and preserve new and bigger batches of seeds for future generations.

Give us the story that goes with the seeds as well, for in addition to the pleasure of sharing and the knowledge that you're helping to preserve a plant variety that might otherwise die out entirely, there are prizes to be had. For the best story about the seeds you send us, we will award a first prize of three pounds of Dean's Beans, a delicious gourmet coffee, and a set of colorful herbal kitchen floor mats by botanical artist Margo Davis-Hollander. Second prize is a single floor mat by the same artist. Third prize is a 1997 wall calendar titled "Simply Fruits," by Margo Davis-Hollander.

To qualify for the prizes, you must send us seeds for plant varieties that are at least fifty years old; are a family (or community) heirloom (not recently available from a catalog or any other commercial source); and are from the Northeast (Mid-Atlantic to southern Canada). In addition, the seeds must arrive undamaged (mailed in a padded or large envelope); still be able to germinate; have a story about how they survived or found their way to your garden; and arrive at the Conservancy by December 1, 1996. Even if you don't have a story, the Conservancy wants to know everything you can tell it about the seeds you send. The Conservancy happily accepts seeds any time, but it cannot consider seeds that arrive after December 1, 1996, for prizes.

For more information, write the Conservancy at P.O. Box 451, Great Barrington, MA 01230, or call 413-229-8316.





The look of Thunder Bay Ensemble.

CULTURAL COUNCIL SPONSORS INDONESIAN PERFORMING ARTS

The Monterey Cultural Council is a sponsor of the performance by Thunder Bay Ensemble to be held in the social room of Monterey United Church of Christ at 3 p.m. on Sunday, June 16. Ed Herbst and Beth Skinner, co-directors of Thunder Bay Ensemble, will demonstrate the music, masks, dance, and shadow puppets of Bali, and share the process of creating new theater from tin-can marionettes and scrapyard gongs and chimes. The artists are researchers of world culture and creators of new work. Admission is free for adults and children.

Ed Herbst graduated from Bennington College and has a Ph.D. in World Music from Wesleyan University. He did research in Indonesia for over two years on a Fulbright scholarship. He receives annual support from the National Endowment for the Arts, and has performed and presented workshops internationally. Beth Skinner is a certified teacher of Releasing Technique, teaching dancers, actors, adults, and children. She graduated from Bennington College and has an M.A. from Wesleyan. She also studied and performed in Bali, has received six consecutive years of NEA funding, and has performed in Europe and around the U. S.

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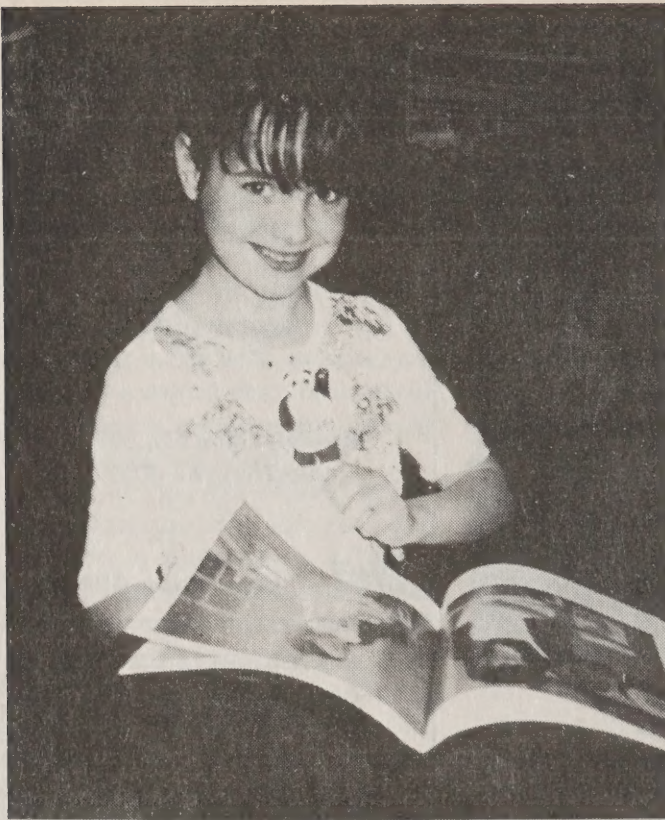
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First grade book-lover Erica Lahert.

NEW MARLBOROUGH AND MONTEREY SCHOOL NEWS

Community Reading Day was celebrated May 10 at our local schools. This annual event pulls in volunteers from all walks of life for one common purpose—to share a love of reading with our children.

Monterey's own David McAllester regaled the Monterey K/1 with Native American stories. He told of wigwams on Main Street in Stockbridge, and how maple syrup, the big dipper, and the seasonal color change of leaves came to be. He also told an Eskimo story.

Pre-K's morning reader was Claudette Callahan. Sitting in the classroom rocking chair with the children clustered around her, she read *Seven Blind Mice*. In the afternoon, Marsha Harvey read the much-loved classic, *Winnie the Pooh*.

Jeannot Heyman's first-grade morning reader was CeCe Hardcastle's dad, Nick, reading James Herriot's *Moses the Kitten*. After lunch Georgiana O'Connell, back in her old classroom, read *Make Way for Ducklings*, an obvious class favorite.

Second grade hosted Mr. Henry

Eggenberger (grandfather of CeCe and Tess Hardcastle), who brought with him the biggest cow bell I'd ever seen. He explained the purpose of the bells based on his own experiences in his native Switzerland. He read *A Bell for Ursli*.

The third grade had three visitors who helped them experience three different cultures. Marilyn Dempsey Cameron set the mood for *The Faithful Friend*, a story set in Martinique, by bringing in tropical fruits, hand fans, and a tape of ocean sounds. The class was in the Caribbean thanks to Marilyn. Next, Reverend Stanley Sokol spoke to the class about Polish customs for spring. He talked of his educational route from Poland to Boston to the Berkshires, and finally to Sheffield. His studies continue as he prepares for citizenship. Elementary principal Dick Anderson read *Dragonfly's Tale*—a favorite of his. It's a retelling of a Zuni legend.



Christina Gillespie reads to the fourth grade.

Marsha Pottle's fourth grade explored the world of folk and fairy tales. Karl Lipsky was first reader with *The King's Equal*. Anika Russ, visiting from Germany and working at Gould Farm, read a Southern folk tale, *The Talking Eggs*. Teacher Gerri Lawrence read an African folk tale, *Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters*. Christina Gillespie read with great effect Roald Dahl's *Revolting Rhymes*, a compilation of "fractured" fairy tales.

The enthusiasm of all participants was quite apparent. Thanks to all who shared a favorite book, author, experience. My guess is that many of these stories will be read again with a new appreciation, and a fond memory of this day. Thanks should also go to the CRD

steering committee, Francine Groener and Nancy Crawford.

Not coincidentally, Friday was also Reading Is Fun day. It was the third and final distribution for this school year. Debbie O'Brien, RIF coordinator, and her daughter Amy set up age-appropriate books for each class to choose from.

Topping off the day was the PTA's ice cream social and the unveiling of the all-new NMC/Monterey Schools tee shirts.

In other school news, Judy Isacoff honored Earth Day by walking, crafting, and generally appreciating our earth and its resources with the first through fourth grades.

For several years now, Luis Guerrero has given his time and talents to teach Spanish to grades two, three, and four. Through its own foundation, the Mead Corporation (Señor Guerrero's employer) has given NMC a gift of \$500 in honor of his volunteer effort.

Monterey K/1 traveled to NMC to participate in a school-wide program sponsored by the PTA and South Mountain. The children listened to and played along with the Spectrum Percussion Trio.

Only one more month of school left.

— Deborah Mielke

THE BIBLE AS AN IDOL

In about ten days the Massachusetts Conference of the United Church of Christ will hold its annual meeting at Mt. Holyoke College in South Hadley. The keynote speaker will be Marcus Borg, professor of the stimulating book *Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time*. He will address the conference on the topic "Who Do You Say That I Am?"

The reason I mention this is that once again the age-old questions, Who was Jesus? What did he say? are at center stage. For many people the answers are self-evident; all one needs to know is in the Bible and, more particularly, the New Testament. Others respond by saying it is not at all clear whether the Jesus of the Bible is an unreconstructed, historical person or a reconstructed person whose identity has been greatly embellished by the early Christian Church. As is usually the case in such a discussion, the answer lies somewhere in between. But my immediate concern is not with that discussion. Rather, I am more interested in the mindset that people bring to this question (and, incidentally, to much of life).

Quite simply, for many, many people, the Bible is the infallible Word of God, period! And for others, it is a collection of writings (or books, which is

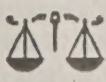
what "bible" means) that are unquestionably inspired but by no means infallible. Rather than allowing for a more "relaxed" frame of mind and heart (a kind of sartorial theology) that is guided by the Spirit of God, there is a need to preserve the status quo. An underlying reason for that is resistance to change. One result is rigidity and inflexibility which leads to judgmentalism and intolerance. Lost in the shuffle of ideas and opinions are the people. So, for example, the Bible is no longer one among several expressions of God. The Bible has become God! It has become an idol. As such, people are more intent on preserving the words than the Word.

Underneath it all is the too-human frailty—the need to control. Which, in turn, arises out of a fearful heart. The one constant in the midst of all this is God's love. Any reading of the Bible must be read through the filter of that love. And that, in turn, implies that our lives are also filtered through the same love. Our energy is then devoted to being open to the ongoing revelation of God rather than a defensive circling of the wagons. Idolizing the Bible (blind admiration) gives way to a vital relationship with God.

— Keith Snow, Pastor
Monterey United Church of Christ

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FAMILY SUPPORT NETWORK/ CHILDREN'S HEALTH, INC.

Happy Fathers' Day! We would like to thank all the fathers who have helped to make our fathers' program successful and who are positively helping to raise our area children.

Here is a listing of workshops and special activities for the month (except as otherwise noted, phone Children's Health Program at 528-9311 for information or registration):

Saturday, June 1 Grandma's Attic, on the third floor of Construct, Inc., Main St., Great Barrington, will have a Dollar-A-Bag Sale. The exchange will be closed except by appointment for the summer, and will reopen on Saturday, August 24. Hours for June 1 are 10 a.m.-12 noon.

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Wednesday, June 5 Breast feeding Support Group, Russell House, 9:30-11:30 a.m. Call Cheryl Dobson at 528-8580 for information.

Fridays, June 7, 14, 21, 28 Parent-child playgroup at McGee House, Gould Farm, Monterey, 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Saturday, June 8 Picnic for Fathers' Group and Clothing Exchange volunteers and families, French Park, Egremont, 12 noon.

Monday, June 10 New parents' workshop on safety and childproofing with Allison Nash, Berkshire Visiting Nurse, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Russell House, 54 Castle St., Great Barrington. Childcare available.

Wednesday, June 12 Single Mothers' Playgroup, 2-4 p.m. at Russell House, 54 Castle St., Great Barrington.

Saturday, June 15 Fathers' Group Relaxation, 4:30 p.m. at Berkshire Mountain Yoga, 30 Elm Court, Great Barrington.

Saturday and Sunday, June 22-23 Free Yoga classes for South Berkshire Parents. Berkshire Mountain Yoga, 30 Elm Court, Great Barrington. Call 528-5333 for time and reservation.

Our regular playgroups follow the school schedule and will end when public school ends. For the summer we plan parent-child playgroups at the Housatonic School playground, 10 a.m.-12 noon on July 9, 16, 23, 30, and August 6, 13, 20; at Undermountain School playground in Sheffield on July 11, 18, 25, and August 1, 8, and 15. Playgroups will be cancelled due to rain.

Swimming lessons will be offered by Loren Kinnaman at York Lake, Sandisfield State Park, on Wednesdays in July and August. A waiver of parking fees has been purchased by the Family Support Network for the following dates: July 10, 17, 24, 31, and August 7, 14, and 21. For information about swimming lessons, please call Loren at 528-9311.

The Family Support Network will again work with the Great Barrington Chamber of Commerce to obtain reduced-price tickets to the Big Apple Circus. Contact Miriam at 528-9311.

Summer health tips for parents and children:

- Be sure to use sun screen for children when they are outside in the sunshine. Read the labels to find the best protection.

- Teach children to avoid poisonous plants (like poison ivy) and to come to you with berries they might want to eat. Learn about area plants that might be harmful to you and your children. (We have a handout at our lending library.)

- Be sure children are well covered when walking through fields and woods. Be aware of proper first aid for bites and cuts.

- Be sure that children have plenty of water to drink on hot days.

- The summer days have longer hours of daylight. Remember that active children (and parents) need periods of rest and quiet.

Through the generosity of area Cultural Councils, the Family Support Network has obtained passes for families to attend local cultural events. The Great Barrington Arts Council has donated to Family Fun Day and March Hare Festival.

The Cultural Councils of Stockbridge, Sheffield, Monterey, and Sandisfield have donated passes to the Children's Theater at the Berkshire Theater Festival in Stockbridge.

The Lenox Cultural Council has donated passes to the Berkshire Museum Aquarium in Pittsfield. We plan a field trip there in July. Look for information in the *July News*.

The Mount Washington and Alford-Egremont Cultural Councils have donated passes to the Berkshire Wildlife Sanctuary in Lenox. We will plan a field trip there in August. Check the *News* next month.

To acquire passes for the above events can contact Claudette at 528-9311.

The Family Support Network wishes to thank all the community Cultural Councils and the parent Massachusetts Cultural Council that have made it possible for area families to enjoy local cultural events.

We have a new video titled *Wee Sing Together*, a collection of children's songs appropriate for ages two through eight.

— Claudette Callahan



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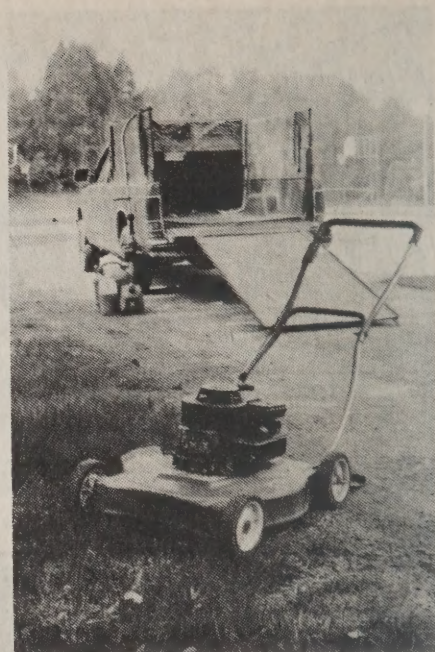


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MONTEREY GRANGE

The Monterey Grange No. 291 met on May 1, when the theme of the program was Mothers' Day. Members brought in photos of their mothers and told some interesting stories about "mom."

Applications for membership are being taken. The Grange had an exhibit at the Post Office for Grange Week, from April 20 through April 30. At a later time there will be a fund-raiser for state and national projects for the deaf. Visitors are welcome.

— Fraternally,
Mary Wallace, Lecturer

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COUNCIL ON AGING

The Monterey Council on Aging will host a free luncheon followed by a guest speaker at noon on Friday, June 21, in the basement of the Town Hall.

Barbara Swann, Monterey Town Clerk, will speak on the history of the town, with special emphasis on the split from Tyringham in 1847—what led up to it and its consequences.

The public is invited.

— Pauline Nault

THE POLITICIANS

ATM Fees: Enough is Enough!

While it may not adequately compare to dealing with a real, live teller at the local branch of your bank, more and more Massachusetts residents are beginning to depend on the convenience of the thousands of automated teller machines across the state for their daily cash and banking needs. But at a time when technology is supposed to make things easier, less cumbersome, and less costly for us, some financial institutions may be trying to cash in on some unsuspecting ATM customers.

According to the Bank Network News annual report, the average cost for an ATM transaction is 27¢ at the consumer's own bank and 50¢ at another network machine. Yet nationally, consumers are charged an average of \$1 each time they use a network ATM. And in Massachusetts, existing ATM fees are already as high as \$2.

In addition to the fact that banks are already receiving at least a fifty-cent profit on each transaction, the PLUS ATM network on April 1, 1996, began allowing individual ATM operators in its system to add their own surcharge to the fees already charged to consumers. Without regulatory or legislative controls, Cirrus and other major ATM networks are likely to follow suit. For the average consumer, this announcement by PLUS opens the door for banks to charge upwards of a 300% increase in the cost of using certain ATM machines. Now, I am all for convenience. But enough is enough!

I, along with seventy-five of my colleagues in the House of Representatives, have sponsored legislation which will help consumers make an informed decision as to when and where they access their money via ATM machines. House Bill 4236, "The ATM Fee Disclosure Bill," mandates that the ATM machines be programmed to alert each customer of the cost of the transaction they have requested and to provide them an opportunity to cancel the transaction without any fees being levied against their account.

Would you buy something without knowing how much it costs? I highly doubt that would be the case. This bill addresses a consumer rights issue. The people of Massachusetts have the right to know, in advance, how much they will



MAGGIE LEONARD

pay for a bank transaction. And if they don't agree with the fee for services rendered, they should have the right to choose not to buy it. I plan to do everything I can to see that we are allowed to make this choice for ourselves.

— State Rep. Christopher J. Hodgkins

MONTEREY NATURE HIKES

Bonner McAllester will lead a series of nature hikes for Monterey children, age six to twelve, on Friday mornings, July 12 through August 2. The class is limited to ten, and is free, thanks to a grant from the Massachusetts Cultural Council. Call 528-9385 to register.

— Laurie Shaw

MONTEREY LIBRARY NOTES

The Monterey Library will sponsor a very special event this summer. Storyteller and folk singer John Porcino will be performing at the library on Saturday, July 6, at 10:30 a.m. John's colorful repertoire of stories is chosen from world folk tales, contemporary books, various religious traditions, oral hand-me-downs and home-spun yarns. Intertwined with these stories is a rich assortment of songs—some original, others collected through John's years as a teacher and musician. This event is free of charge, perfect for families with children of all ages. It is made possible by a grant from the Monterey Cultural Council, a local agency supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

Catch The Summer Spark is the theme for the statewide reading program which will begin on June 17. This program offers kids the chance to explore new realms of knowledge, maintain reading skills during the summer, and just have fun! Children ages four through twelve may participate, and will receive bookmarks, game sheets, and reading logs. They can earn prizes as they read. Participants are also eligible for reduced admission to over three dozen cultural, educational, and recreational attractions throughout the state. Come to the library and find out how your child can be part of the summer spark.

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*Yes, but I saved the rain for you
and the stones sentinel by Clogherhead
 minikin mosses hidden to the long north light
 coral roseate secrets
 so articulate
 only a cramped heart would notice*

*yes, and the grey wet of wind along sea cream beaches
the swinging sighs of clouds
dung hanging at the back of the cows
the beehive huts of the saints of lichen and turf
up in the bracken's supercession of
the five flapping towels of Liam Doherty's wife
 her palimpsests of patience*

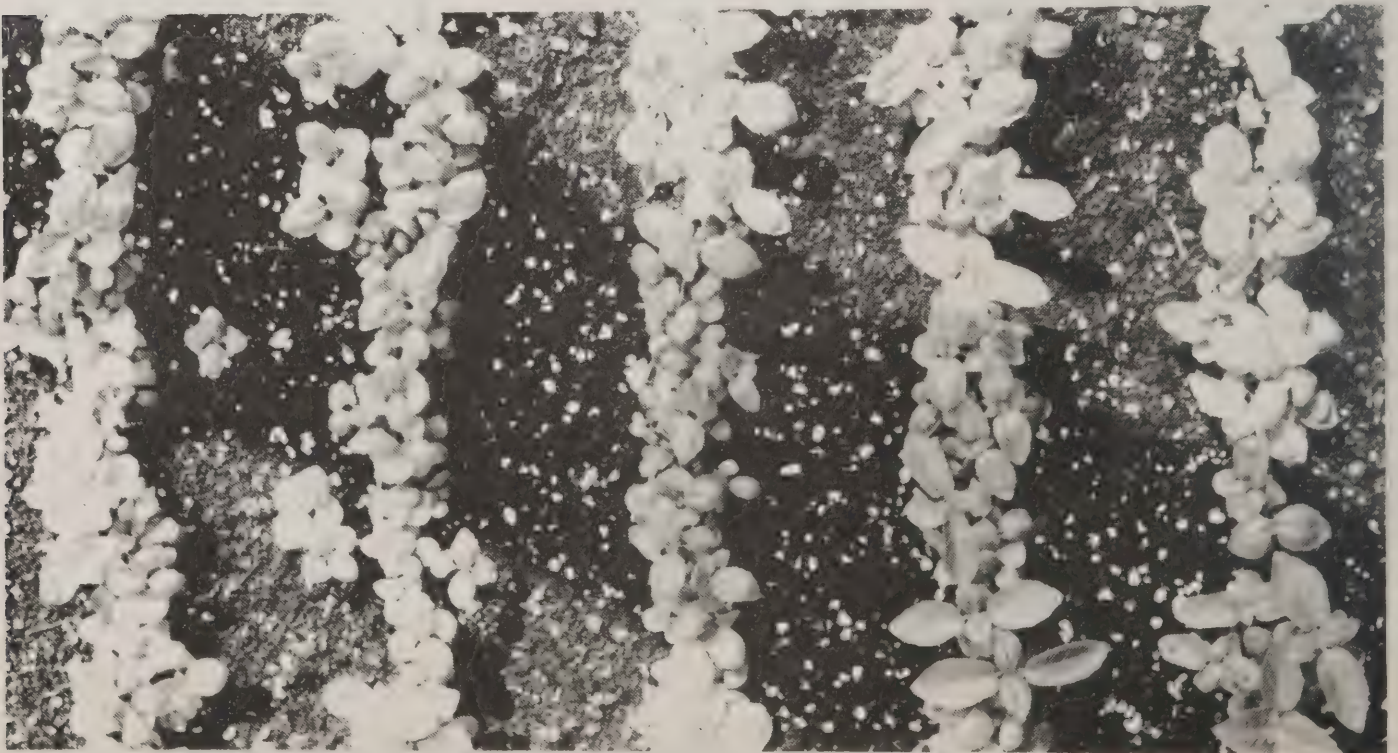
*I paid the price in every sense
to climb pathless through the nettles
to sit stung in the empty doorway
of a soul fled fourteen hundred years*

*I conjured the Tir nan Og—
was he, the culdee, walking those Isles of the Blessed
now on young sensuous naked feet
bearing the stigmata of an earthly life
which nails us all?*

*I breathed deep the salt air
 a coarse benediction of aseptic tears
and sought for a streak of sun among the unfolded fronds—
 where were his prayers?*

*Dominus vobiscum my ancient, my most ubiquitous love!
yes, I prayed for emptiness
and that no one would go so lonely
 a stray gannet answered—
 out of the mists over to the Blaskets
 it came shearing, plummeting
 to the stretched and veined waters
it folded its wings
 and simply disappeared.*

A.O. Howell



CLOUDS

Now I am blind
As I stare at the sky
I no longer see
With a child's clear eye

Warriors, dragons
Ships and wings
Towers, ramparts
Queens and kings
Have gone, sailed away
On childhood's clouds.
Hidden from me
By aging shrouds

*But still I watch
The monstrous march
The silent roiling clash
 of vapor,
High and wild.
And still I hear
Faint but clear
The heart of the child

Perhaps they will return
Those titans of the skies.
As I sink into the earth
They will fill my dimming eyes,
Take me in their arms
To where my callow dreams
 have gone.
To the land, always west,
To the Isle of Avalon*

— Nick Hardcastle

HAVOC AND FOXGLOVES IN PARADISE

*We might be caught deaf and blind
by a two hundred and fifty
mile an hour whirlwind
wreaking havoc in paradise
waking up the state of mind
But let no man nor romance
say we missed the foxgloves
or failed this fleeting chance
to be with friends and share
a bowl of blossoming circumstance*

— Richard Zukowski



CAPE COD WILDLIFE, INCLUDING TICKS

We went to Cape Cod last weekend and walked on Great Island in Wellfleet. The last time we were on the Cape, which was twenty-one years ago, we'd spent a day on Great Island watching terns courting. We'd come home sunburned and happy, with our dog full of sea water (she'd never been to the ocean before and drank quite a bit of it). Two members of our party brought home one tick each—Joe and the dog.

As we planned this recent trip people warned us we would find the Cape "much changed." But our last visit was so long ago that we didn't remember much except for the terns. The old dog has been gone for years, so we didn't think much about ticks as we headed out. That Cape Cod tick was the only one she ever had in her fourteen years, dog ticks being quite scarce here in the woods of East Monterey.

Saturday morning we packed a lunch and drove to Great Island, which was once an island but is now more a peninsula. The tide was out and thousands of little fiddler crabs moved nervously into their burrows as we walked by. They are the color of the sand flat and if you don't focus on them just right it looks as if localized portions of the surface of the earth are shifting about just as you pass by. You can get a little dizzy.

Beach plums were blooming to beat the band but the terns are done courting now and look serious about hunting and defending territory. We saw parts of the upper beach roped off to protect piping plover nests, and twice the plover herself scurried out of the nursery to grab an invisible meal from the pebbles and sand. She has a clown-like look with her white face, and big dark eyes. At the far end of Great Island, Jeremy Point, we came upon a dead seal, beached at the last high tide. Its fur was glossy, its claws like those of many mammals. Close up and in death I felt our relationship strongly.

Heading back across a sort of upland

plateau we saw prairie warblers and a scrubby plant like sagebrush (same genus). We came down onto the beach again and glanced down. My jeans looked like the shifting sand of the fiddler crabs! They were crawling with ticks—hungry adults which had been waiting on the sagebrush, maybe for years.

Dog ticks are not insects. They are arthropods, which is a large group that includes the insects, also the lobsters. Ticks belong to the same subgroup of



arthropods as the spiders and mites, having simple eyes and eight legs. They start out life as eggs, laid by the female on the ground. The larvae hatch out and head for the nearest vertical thing, responding to a strong instinct to go up toward the light. Here they wait for something warm-blooded to come along. They can be patient, waiting as long as eleven months for a meal. At last they get a whiff of butyric acid, which is given off by all us delicious warm-blooded edibles. At this they drop off the stick or grass or shrub they've been clinging to, and chances are they will land on a meal. If not, they just crawl along until they find another place to go up.

After a meal, the larva (which has six legs, like an insect), drops off the host and digests. Then it undergoes its metamorphosis into a nymph and climbs up something again, to wait for the second host of its life so far. Nymphs can wait up to six months for their meal. The nymph feeds the same way the larva does, then

drops off and digests. Then it turns into a mature tick and if it is a female it will head up for another meal. In some species the adult male does not feed, in others he takes minor meals. An adult tick can wait as long as two years for its meal.

Female dog ticks lay their eggs in clusters and can produce 4,000 to 6,500 eggs. The larvae may head out in a group and all go up the same little bush. Usually rabbits, mice, or other small rodents are the hosts for the larvae and the nymphs; the adults are likely to attack people, dogs, cattle, horses, and other large mammals.

When I sat on the sand at Great Island, flicking ticks off my jeans, I noticed that as soon as they hit the ground they headed for me again. Maybe they recognized me by my butyric acid, or maybe they thought I was a bush. Many people have a horror of ticks. I have the typical naturalist's blind blanket tolerance for all living things and I don't mind ticks. They are small and easily removed,

even if they have latched on to start feeding. You may hear tales of "unscrewing" them, of needing to turn them counter clockwise to get them off. This is hooey. You may also have heard that one needs to touch a tick with a hot match. This is up to you but it is dangerous and probably won't result in the tick's letting go. What does work is kerosene (without the hot match). Get some kerosene on a swab and coat the tick with it. Since it breathes through its skin, it will be suffocated by the kerosene, die, and drop off.

Even though I don't get panicked over ticks, I need to remember that dog ticks can be dangerous to people since they often are vectors for various disease—carrying viruses, rickettsiae, bacteria, spirochaetes, and protozoa. It is a good idea to pick them off and leave them on Great Island with the piping plovers, the plum blossoms, and the beached seals.

— Bonner J. McAllester

WILDLIFE SURVEY

From The Roadside. We've gone from coltsfoot in wet ditches to banks of dandelions, fields of dandelions: the golding of the Berkshires. The white puffs of shadbush bloom have been augmented by the similar wild cherry but the former is in loose formations and the bark smooth gray while the latter is in "regular" small tree shape and the bark is dark.

The hillsides are clad in many shades of soft green: silvery for a grove of poplars, chartreuse where sugar maples are blooming; the effect, a visitor observed, is like the humps of soft mosses in the formal gardens of Japan. As we move out of spring into summer all this variety of color will merge into a uniform green, light for the deciduous trees and dark for the conifers.

Birds. The big news is the variety of bird arrivals, passing through or getting about nesting. The "butterflies of the bird world," the warblers, have arrived. Joe Baker has seen the black and white, the black-throated blue, the blue-throated green; Eleanor Kimberley has seen the no-less-vivid rose-breasted grosbeaks, three males coming to her feeder, and humming birds all day (May 19), and Joyce Scheffey had a dazzling indigo bunting, bold as brass, on her premises.

Another unusual sighting is three pairs of white-crowned sparrows feeding on the ground under Barbara Tryon's feeder. She and the Baker/McAllesters

have been seeing a female red-bellied woodpecker, very likely the same one since they are rare here.

Bluebirds. These much-looked-for returnees from the brink of extinction are around but have not yet occupied their Tryon, Kimberley, McAllester, or Schef-

beachplum, clintonia, bayberry, birch and alder catkins.

Larger creatures. Most notable is the moose seen by Carl Champigny near the bridge on Diane's Walk, and again in the meadow nearby at the beginning of May. A large bear visited the Oldses on

Blue Hill Road, May 3. He or she helped herself to the contents of the bird feeder and then the contents of a nearby barrel of feed in a liesurely raid about 11 p.m. Dale Duryea's turkey caller brought a coyote to within a few feet of the sound: the coyote was a pure albino! Another bear was photographed on Cronk Road, and a fisher was spotted in a tree on the Tyringham Road at the Monterey line.

Messages. Dale reminds us that the secret

of good relations with bears is training people as well as bears. Eleanor Kimberley renews her request for a call (269-4936) if you spot some interesting bird or animal that seems to be staying around long enough for her to get there. She might be able to take one of her prize-winning photographs at your place.

— David P. McAllester



fey birdboxes. In the latter case they are nesting in the vicinity but are secretive about it.

Flowers. The other big news is the May efflorescence: ladies smock, bluets, trillium (red and white), foam flower, marsh marigold, fawn lilies (trout lilies, or dog-toothed violets), blueberry, wild mustard, violets (blue, white, yellow) wild strawberry, gold thread, sand plum,

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THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF HANNAH CLIMENA PIXLEY CONTINUED

Hannah Pixley claimed no happy love life. Here she tells of her eventual marriage to Stokes Smith Ariail in passing, as if it were just another episode, distinguished only by the momentary hope of escape from drudgery, which was not realized.

In going to dances, I met a young violinist. He fell in love with me and I with him, but my Mother, as I call her, objected. I was not allowed to see him if they knew of it, but he told his sister that I was the only girl he wanted to marry. So she planned for me to go and stay all night with her and go with her the next day to the Fourth of July to Turners at Lake Buel. Then we could go on the steamboat down to Gibson's Grove to meet her brother and get away from Mother and old Ross her husband.

Well we met there and laid our plans to write to each other often until he finished his work for a wealthy farmer that year. But they had an only daughter and she fell in love with the poor fiddler, as my folks called him, and wanted him, so his letters from me he never got. And in the meantime, a young engineer came to our house to stay one winter, and he wanted me to marry him. So I never got a letter from my lover. Then finally, I got a chance to leave home and go to work near the post office. Then I wrote to my lover once more. I got his letter and it was just a heart-breaking letter. It told how he never got one of my letters and had thought I had jilted him.

Then he said, Oh, my God, their daughter got in trouble and has laid it to me and I am poor and have no way of getting out of it. The child is not mine, but she wanted me and took that way to get me. Yet she knew I love you. She must of [have] got the letters you wrote me.

Well, they had that one child, then he died young, so it did not do her very much good to get him in that way.

Well time passed on, then I never wanted to marry anyone and never would if my folks had treated me decent and not made a slave of me. For there was several. I refused to marry one young man I met at a kitchen dance. One night I was feeling sad and out of place so I left the dancers and went out in the kitchen to be alone. I had just sit down there when out came Mike McCarty, a young farmer, and sit down by my side. He told me he came out to talk with me, then he asked me to marry him. I told him I was sorry but my answer must be no. Then he asked me if there was someone else. I told him no. Then he asked why I would not marry him and I told him he was a nice young man and the girl he married ought to love and care for him, and I could not. Then he told me he would be so good and kind to me that I could not help but love him after awhile. I told him no then he told me if that was my final answer that he should never marry, but he hoped if I ever needed help he would be near to help me in any way.

Well I never see him for years after that night until I was married and had my oldest girl, Mary, a big girl, when his wish came true. We was on a farm at the time. We had an ugly hog get out and Mary and I was trying to get her in the pen. My husband see us in trouble and so he hid under the fence and left Mary and me to get her the best way we could while he lay and watched us. And sure enough, Mike came over the mountain and see us, then he stopped and helped Mary and me. He had seen Ariail hide and asked Mary what it meant for he just see a man hide under the fence up the road. Mary told him that was Daddy, for he had seen the

trouble we were having and hid.

Then Mike told Mary, Your Mother was the only woman in the world I ever wanted, your Father got her then he treats her like this. I cannot stand it to know how she is treated.

He never married. That was the first and last I ever see him after that night. When I refused to marry him it was not long before he was found in the river dead. He had a sad life but at last all his cares was ended.

Mike had a brother James that never married. Years after, I was to a party one night and James was there. An old bachelor and an old lady, Mrs. Standard, and I heard her say to him, James, I bet you was a handsome young man. How was it you never married?

He told her, You have asked me and I will tell you the truth. The only woman I ever wanted is here tonight. Years ago we was to a party one night, my brother and I, and I see her too out in the kitchen and I started out to ask her to marry me when I heard my brother asking her to marry him. I heard her refuse him and I thought, If she refused my brother, as nice a man as he was, there was no hope for me. So I went in and joined in the dance with the rest of the company. I made up my mind that night that I should never marry and I never have. My brother never knew we both wanted the same girl.

When I heard his story, I knew for I was the one who refused his brother that night at that party. Yet he never knew I was where I heard him tell it all to Mrs. Standard.

Just a short time before I refused Mike, I was a visiting a friend of mine whose son, a railroad engineer, came to see his mother and one evening asked me to go to church with him. I went as it was near her house. As we was walking to church he said to me it would be the happiest day he would ever see if I would be his bride. I told him I did not want to marry anyone. I was no flirt and I did not encourage anyone. For my heart belonged to my poor fiddler, the one I loved and the

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one that loved me and we were parted forever. He said if I would not marry him, he hoped the next time he took out his engine it would kill him, for he had rather die than live without me. It did not kill him, however, for he left his job years after to become a hobo.

Oh, what a queer world this is and what a checkered life I have had as I sometimes think it over from childhood to old age. I am now eighty years old. Well, little book, there is a lot yet to tell you.

In this book, it tells of a Mr. G. in the forefront. That G. means Gleason. Now I tell who the Mr. G is for now my supposed-to-be half brother is dead. I will tell more. He never knew, but what we were half brother and sister, I never told him what I knew. He was married three times. He left a wife and four children. He shot himself and is in a suicide's grave. I think it would of been different if his mother had not brought him up to think everyone must cater to him and do as he said. Well in his case that could not be so at least. When I was young and lived with him at home, I was no better than a slave for them all. I had a very hard life, but I got through somehow and I am not going to commit suicide either. I want to live to finish this book if I can. I had to work for them all. Then I had to do sewing and knitting for other folks to get my clothes.

Then they took a man to board that came from the West. After awhile, he asked me to marry him and I told him I did not want to marry anyone. Then he asked me if I would knit him two pair of woolen socks. I told him yes, for two dollars. So he got the yarn and when I was finishing off the last pair, Arthur's Mother came and give me a lecture about working for the boarder, when I ought to be working for my brother, as she called him. I told her I had heard that old story about my working for my brother and not earning anything to clothe myself with for the last time. I would marry the boarder and get out of there. I had been tormented long enough about always working for Arthur. I never let Arthur know, but what I was his half sister. He thought so to the last and was very happy always to come and see Sis, as he always called me. Yet it made my life a long-life lie, to let him think I was truly his half sister when I was no relation whatever. But I never could do a thing to hurt him, so I kept the secret from him and everyone, how I was just a stolen child took from most honorable parents. That is all the man would say, only I was just like my proud mother and looked like her too. Now who I was I never knew, for I was taken from my parents when a baby, he said, and left with the Pixleys. That is all I ever found out or know. Well, I have lived to be eighty-one years old so it don't matter who I was or whence I came.

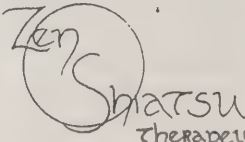
UPON MY WORD!

The ancient Romans were an anxious lot, so they relied on various intriguing methods of divination, or seeking the will of the gods. They had graduated from the old Greek custom of reading sheep's entrails to bird watching. The observation of birds (*aves, spicere*), counting their numbers and directions, have given us the words augury and auspices. To do things under good auspices was auspicious.

Our word speculate comes from their practice of pouring oil on a mirror (*specula*) of water in a bowl and reading the patterns as one would tea leaves today. However, many thought it best to "consider" the future with the help of an astrologer. This word translates as *con* (with) *sideres* (stars).

Today many come right out with it when they cheerfully bid each other Maazel tov! In Hebrew this means "Good stars, good luck!"

— Alice O. Howell



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ON THE ROAD AGAIN

In The Jacuzzi

I was waiting on my land in Alabama. There was my new house coming around the corner. Early in the morning, the truck had pulled the old house forward, then backed it in, out of the way. We had been living in the barn, complete now with bathroom and wood stove, for five days. I let the dogs out for a necessary reason. They went to where the old house used to be. They sniffed around. Just bare ground, nothing. No evidence that Miss Joan, five dogs, cat, and bird, had ever lived here. Land, trees, go on forever. But people who live on this earth come briefly, then are gone.

Oh! Oh! More of my rail fence in front has to be taken down—14 x 70 feet of house won't fit in my driveway. Back, back it came. All my neighbors were up on the high deck of my barn taking pictures. I was on the ground, watching. The driver slid that house in just four inches from the existing front porch! What a job! He asked me, "Where do you want it?" I looked at the front door, the big window at the foot of my bed. I said, "Two feet more...too much...go forward six inches...that's it...that's fine!"

As the men leveled the house, my friends hurried down. "I want to see the inside. I want to see the inside!" So I proceeded to show them my "new baby!" Before the men left, they moved the old house up even, put steps in place, so I could go house to house easily. (Not so easily yet. The back door was four feet above the ground. Needs a deck.)

Left alone, I heated up some soup in the barn, prepared five dog dishes, and we all had dinner on the barn porch looking across the yard at the exciting new abode. I consulted the plan I had made: small table next to the bed, phone stand next to the dining table, word processor and desk in my "extra room." For that door I had made a sign, ready to hang, SHAKESPEARE WORKS HERE. I only had to buy two rugs, living room and bedroom. (I asked for white tile all through.) I have everything else: things that came with the old mobile home, things I hauled U-HAUL from Mass. last year and a few nice Southern-made pieces I bought at the country fairs around here.

I couldn't wait until the next day. I took two kerosene lamps and candles, hopping the four inches into the new house, propped open the back door, and went to work.

I took the little things in the old house that I could carry, pushed them through the propped-over door, then around and in the front door. Had a ball putting them away. At 3 a.m. I was pooped! Some last minute arrangements. Put the lamps and candles strategically around. Then I took pictures. At noon the images of my lovely new house were in the mail on their way to family and friends.

The days went on. Water and sewer were completed. Electricity was hooked up. Carpenter fixed the fence so the dogs could run free. At Happy Hour I got up and asked for some men who could move the things I couldn't, like the couch, bed, and table. After Happy Hour a horde of

men followed me home. In fifteen minutes all these things were in place. I had hot water now. That night I wanted to try the jacuzzi. I turned on the hot water, lit my candles, turned the wall radio high (ceiling speakers in my adjacent bedroom). I felt the water turn cold half way up the big round black tub.

Next morning I was on the phone. "I don't have a big enough water heater to use the jacuzzi. It's a fizzle!" The salesman would get a man right out.

We finally got warm weather. Days at ninety degrees. The dogs were panting. The air conditioner men came (part of the deal). They came out three times to adjust the outlets. I put up curtains I used before. A friend installed two venetian blinds on windows that came without. The Alabama sun shows no mercy in the afternoon. Visitors helped me put up all my Marilyn Monroe prints in my elegant bathroom. A house guest sewed up lace curtains for my two windowed doors. Then Sally, from out back, helped me put up the rods. Celeste and Winslow came over with dinner. They installed towel bars in the guest bathroom, and floor-to-ceiling white towel shelves near the jacuzzi. The man came out and turned the hot water up to 150 degrees. "Try that," he said.

I replanted my bushes in front of the new house. When the old house (all ready to go) is hauled away, the fence will be put back and I will plant those two poor bushes (lying in the sun two weeks, watered every night by me) back in the ground. I hope they survive their operation.

When I come home from church or the market I eagerly enter my new house. Cool. Bach on the radio. Water spills from the dogs' water bowl—what the heck, it's all white tile! I go into my writer's den and close the door. Later I can either watch TV or use the jacuzzi. It stays hot all evening long now! When I use it the five dogs sit there wondering what I'm doing in that bubbling water.

I have to leave all this opulence soon. I will have to finish up when I come back next fall. Almost time to load the camper for the long trip to Massachusetts.

— Joan Woodard Reed

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Rock Ridge Sans Somers

May 25, 1996

To the editor:

Rock Ridge has truly been a house of celebration in Monterey since 1978, when Alice and Arthur Somers bought the manor house from Harold Schwab. For Art Somers purchasing Rock Ridge was a sort of homecoming, as the house had once belonged to his grandfather, and he and Alice wanted to share it with the town.

Think of all the wonderful activities that have taken place at Rock Ridge over the years through the gracious hospitality of the Somerses:

Remember Monterey Lights the Way, when our town was chosen to represent Massachusetts in an international conservation competition? That was an unforgettable moonlit night at Rock Ridge. When Monterey Arts Festivals were part of our summer activities, Rock Ridge hosted many programs. There have been conferences (Lifework 2000 in 1986)

and workshops (the Southern Berkshire Regional School Faculty, Gould Farm, and others). There have been mushroom forays, yoga and exercise classes on the lawn, prayer breakfasts, and Easter sunrise services. The ecumenical reception for Bishop Joseph Maguire at the time of the Golden Jubilee for Our Lady of the Hills Chapel was at Rock Ridge. Incidentally, that chapel was built and given to the church by Art's grandfather.

Shortly after Art retired, and the cost of maintaining the grounds (designed by Frederick Law Olmstead, Jr.) became a financial consideration, Alice and Art decided to open their home for a fee for family celebrations. Two of my daughters had weddings there. A zoning complaint about commerce in the agricultural/residential district ended that venture.

The house has been an asset to

Monterey—it's on the National Register of Historic Houses—but it's Alice and Art Somers who in their generosity made it a place of warmth and welcome. One June 1 Alice and Art will move to Sandisfield very close to the Monterey line—as close as they could get, they said—and by the middle of June the house will be sold. After four generations there will no longer be a Somers presence in Monterey. We will miss them.

— Gige O'Connell
Monterey



Monterey Yankee southpaw Paul Foote in action.

Best Baseball

May 24, 1996

To the Editor:

For the second year this spring something wonderful is going on down in Greene Park. A group of children under the guidance of Jim Edelman and his assistant Bob Tarasuk is experiencing the best of what sports can provide. Little League baseball has long lists of bullish coaches, obnoxious parents, and children in bewilderment.

Jim is a magician. He is able to inspire the children to play winning baseball with honest, positive encouragement, and none of the negative pressure. He is also aware of each child's capabilities and frailties, and his communication rewards the children for their good effort. I have seen even a strikeout receive con-

gratulatory "high-fives" because the child had strived to improve his batting. My lasting image of Jim? He is bent over with his hand on a child's shoulder, gently explaining one of baseball's many complexities. All of his substitutions are carefully explained. It's just that no child feels forgotten; they all feel part of the team; they feel boasted.

This method of coaching is not the norm for children's sports. It is important that we recognize this special achievement. My children have experienced negative competitive coaching. We are lucky to have Jim, and I feel we need to see that.

— Bob Thieriot
Monterey

HCP—The Book

May, 1996

To the Editor:

I enjoy reading the *Monterey News* each month. Thank you for a good and informative newspaper of the town's events. I have been reading the autobiography of Hannah Pixley with great interest. I missed the December issue, and wonder how I may obtain a copy, or read about

the first of the articles.

Thank you again.

— Arlene Reing
Tyringham

Thanks for asking. Monterey News, Inc. is publishing the story as a booklet titled Hannah Climena Pixley: A Life in Monterey, 1862–1953. It includes the complete autobiography and all the supplementary material previously published in the Monterey News. (There is yet more to come in the News.) It will be available at the tag sale on June 8, at area bookstores, and through the mail from Monterey News, P. O. Box 9, Monterey, MA 01245. Pixleyfans should also remember that Diane Kagan will give a staged reading of the autobiography at Barrington Stage Company August 16–18 this summer.

— Ed.

CONTRIBUTORS

Fourteen volunteers are directly involved in turning out the News each month. More than fifteen times that number have made generous cash contributions recently. We couldn't do it without you. Thanks to:

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 Mary Jo Ruggles ("I want to get this paper to keep up with the McAllesters—nature column and poetry, also drawings. Keep up the good work!")
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SYMBOLS OF THE PLANETS

Just as the signs of the zodiac are represented by pictures, so are the planets, or, as they are also called, the lights, in the chart. The term "the planets" is the phrase commonly used, but "the lights" is more accurate, since the sun and the moon are always included.

In a way, this is an extension of last month's column, since the same rules of language apply: astrological language is different from English. In astrology, each of the images of the planets represents the living idea behind the image, not the sounds of the name of the planet.

Here is the meaning of each of the lights as it is used in the astrology chart:

The sun: Consciousness aware of itself, focused in a specific time and place.

The moon: Consciousness in its changeable aspect as personality.

Mercury: Logical thought patterns and the archetype of the Trickster.

Venus: Receptivity, emotionality.

Mars: Activity, direction.

Jupiter: Openness, expansion.

Saturn: Limitation, waiting, patience.

Uranus: Intuition, higher mind.

Neptune: Intuition, higher emotion.

Pluto: transformation, a crucible.

— MaryKate Jordan



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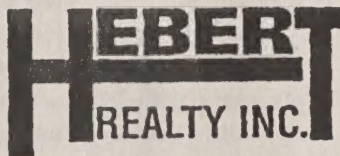
THE OBSERVER - APRIL

Pretty wet this spring. Nearly three times the total precipitation we got in April last year, and twelve times the snowfall. Not cold, though, despite the snow: this year's average temperature for the month was three degrees warmer than the month's average last year in Monterey, and 1.6° warmer than the regional norm. Total snowfall for the season by the end of April was 159.25". 'Til next time, winter.

High temp (4/22) 75°
Low temp. (4/9) 21°

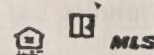
Wind-chilled low temp. (4/10) 0°
Avg. high temp. 55°
Avg. low temp. 34°
Avg. temp. 45°
Monthly norm. (Pitts.) 43.4°
Precip. occ. 14 days
Rainfall 7.59"
Snowfall 12"
Total precip. 9.02"
Monthly norm. (Pitts.) 3.41"
High bar. press. (4/29) 30.24"
Low bar. press. (4/16) 29.37"
High humidity (4/29) 100%
Low humidity (4/18) 55%
Avg. wind speed 3.8 mph
High wind gust (4/11) 39 mph

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PERSONAL NOTES

Congratulations to **James S. Connery**, who was recently elected president of the Housatonic Council Boy Scouts in Connecticut. The council serves about 3,000 youths and volunteers and is in the top ten percent of the 337 councils in the country. James has been an Eagle Scout since 1962, and credits his scouting experiences, to a large degree, for his business success, his community involvement, and his great love of the outdoors. He looks forward to giving back to young people what others gave to him through scouting. James, president of Connery and Oppel PC, a certified public accounting firm in Shelton, Connecticut, is the son of Jim and Betty Connery of Lake Garfield.

Though this story sounded a bit fishy, it's confirmed to be the truth. **Shelly Bynack** caught a whopping 22-inch 5-pound large mouth bass in Mill River and had it mounted! Way to go, Shelly!

Hats off to **Eleanor Kimberley**, who received a bronze star from the editorial department of the Photographic Society of America Journal in recognition of her superbly written articles and photographic illustrations.

Bill and Jeanne Zad of Florida and Lake Garfield enjoyed a wonderful cruise this winter (in celebration of their forty-seven years of marriage) to Cartagena, Columbia, the Panama Canal, the San Blas Islands, and the Dutch Island of

Curaçao. Though they found sailing through the Panama Canal, the Ninth Wonder of the World, simply breathtaking, they were fascinated by meetings with the Cunas, a tribe of small dark Indians in Panama known for their "molas," a reverse hand stitchery done by older women, nearly a lost art. Jeanne purchased some beautiful pieces and will soon have one in Monterey! They have lots of pictures, and have generously offered to share their experiences with the Cunas with anyone interested.

The bad news is that **Arthur and Alice Somers** are leaving Rock Ridge, with very mixed feelings as we can all imagine. The good news is that these fine people intend to continue spending their summers among us, and Arthur expects to be greeting friends and neighbors at the local P. O. just as he has done for the past seventy-six years. They will spend the winter months in Lake Placid, Florida. Luckily we can still look forward to their return, along with the geese and robins. So, no heart-wrenching farewell, but we do wish them well as they leave a place so dear to their hearts. We welcome **Robert and Virginia Duffy** to Rock Ridge. Arthur and Alice give their blessings—"They are grand people and we know they will be an asset to this community."

Congratulations to **Alyssa (Lisa) Gelbard** on her graduation from the New York University School of Business on May 15. She plans to celebrate with a visit to the Grand Canyon and other na-

tional parks before committing to the real-life working world. Go Lisa!

And congratulations to **Michael Marcus**, owner of Joyous Spring Pottery, on the opening of his new sushi restaurant on Railroad Street in Great Barrington. All Japanese cuisine at Bizen (named after an ancient Japanese province) will be served on his pottery.

Three cheers for **Shaen O'Connor**, who is fast becoming a baseball legend in Jupiter, Florida. An honors student as well, he was the only freshman to make the high school varsity team, and as their starting catcher to boot! After a recent four-game tournament in Lake Worth, Shaen was named "Athlete of the Week" by the *Palm Beach Post*. For love of the game, summer in Monterey is somewhat in question this year if Shaen plays for the competitive American Legion team there. Our best of luck to you Shaen—one fer your fans up North! Shaen is the son of John and Anne Marie O'Connor of Lake Garfield.

Hats off to **Shaylan Burkhart** who was one of five Mt. Everett juniors selected to attend the American Legion Boys' State at Stonehill College, June 8–14. The son of Wayne and Donna Burkhart of Gould Farm, Shaylan is a member of the Jazz Band and Brass Chorus, sings with the Madrigals and Dial Tones, and has been a soccer team member for four years. Selection for the program, designed to provide participants with the tools to better understand the workings of local and state government, was made on the basis of academic averages and personal interviews.

Kudos for Mt. Everett seventh graders **Hannah Bracken** and **Katie Vallianos** who earned "placement with distinction" awards for their performance on SAT tests administered by the College Board SAT Program. Hannah also received a Certificate of Distinction in Mathematics, awarded by the Commonwealth. This is the tenth year of the schools' involvement in the program designed to recognize their support of outstanding students, and to encourage high academic goals for the students.

Bravo! to **Abby Childs** and **Kim Gero**, of the eighteen-member Berkshire Children's Chorus that recently com-

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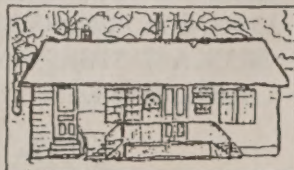
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peted in the Heritage Festival competition in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, and came home with both a gold medal and an adjudicator's award. The group has also been selected to perform in August with the Berkshire Chorale Festival which will be held at Berkshire School in Sheffield. The Chorus is open to any young singer in grades six through nine, and auditions are in the fall. More information is available from director Nancy Loder, 528-9285

Good job! Several Monterey students were named to area honor roll lists for the third marking period. Mount Everett Regional in Sheffield: **Shaylan Burkhart, William Conklin, Joseph Kopetchny, Jared Thomson** and **Noah Wright** made High Honors in grade eleven, and **Hannah Bracken, Kimberly Gero, and Katie Vallianos** in grade seven. Achieving Honors were **Kevin Ohman** in grade twelve, **Julia Gallagher** and **Justin Thomson** in grade ten, **Cedric Mason** in grade nine, **Michael Bynack** in grade eight and **Christina Temenos** in grade seven. At Berkshire School in Sheffield both freshman **Lucy Rosenthal** and senior **Samantha Goldfinger** earned Honors, and at Searles Middle School in Great Barrington, **Maggie Clawson** and **Mariah Rutherford-Olds** earned High Honors in grade seven.

Happy birthday wishes this month to **Todd Bynack** on June 8, to **Kay Pratt** on June 13, to **Michael Bynack** and **John Higgins** on June 16, to **Sandy Gottlieb** on June 18, to **Christopher Blair** and **Pam Gauthier** on June 14, to **Jane Thorn** on June 23, to **Margrit Schuler** on June 24, to **Colm Higgins** and **Eileen Clawson** on June 28, to **Nadia Westenberg** on June 29, and **Grace Mendel** on June 30.

Happy anniversary to **John and Stella Hogan** on June 8, to **Dean and Fran Amidon** on June 18, to **Sandy and Rita Gottlieb** on June 21, to **Kyle and Phebe Wing** on June 23, and to **Terry and Joan Wing** on June 29.

Whew! Many contributions this month! Please jot down news items, birthdays, etc. that you want to share, and mail them to me, just Route 23. Or call me at 528-4519.

— Stephanie Grotz

CALENDAR

Sundays, June 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 AA meetings, 9 a.m. in the Monterey Firehouse, Main Road.

Sunday, June 2 Quilt Day in Monterey. Antique quilt display at The Bidwell House with lecture and demonstration by Carole Zarin at 1 p.m. Adults \$5, Museum members free. Information, 528-6888.

Wednesdays, June 5 and 19 Meeting of the Monterey Grange No. 291, 8 p.m. at the Grange Hall.

Friday, June 7 A short concert and sing-along by the Gould Farm Chorus, 7:30 p.m. at Main House, Gould Farm. All welcome.

Saturday, June 8 Tag Sale sponsored by the Monterey Fire Company, 7:30 a.m.-1 p.m. in the pavilion behind the firehouse.

Sunday, June 16 Indonesian performing arts by Thunder Bay Ensemble, 3 p.m. in the basement room at Monterey United Church of Christ. Admission free. Information, 269-4201.

Wednesday, June 19 Meeting of the Southern Berkshire Solid Waste Dis-

trict, 7 p.m. in the church basement.

Tuesday, June 18

Free blood pressure clinic, 9-10:30 a.m. in the basement room of the Monterey Grange (town offices), Main Road.

Quarterly meeting of all town officials and interested citizens, 7 p.m. at the Town Hall.

Friday, June 21 Free luncheon, 12 noon in the basement of the Town Hall with guest speaker Barbara Swann, Monterey Town Clerk. Sponsored by the Council on Aging.

Saturday, June 22 Square and contradance at the Sheffield Grange, Route 7, Sheffield, 8:30-11:30 p.m. Music by Mountain Laurel, calling by Joe Baker. All dances taught, beginners and children welcome. Refreshments. Adults \$5, children \$2. Information: 413-528-9385 or 518-329-7578.

Saturday, July 6

Storyteller and folk singer John Porcino, 10:30 a.m. at the Monterey Library. Information, 528-3795.

Nature walk led by Bonner McAllester on The Bidwell House grounds, 10-11:30 a.m. Adults \$5, children under twelve, \$2 Information, 528-6888.

HANNAH CLIMENA PIXLEY A Life in Monterey, 1862-1953

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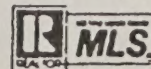
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We invite readers to submit letters, news items, opinions, stories, poetry, drawings, and photographs. Please send submissions by the fifteenth of the month before publication, addressed to the attention of the Editor.

Send any change of address, or initial request to receive the *News* by mail to Barbara Tryon, Business Manager.

Address your request for advertising rates and information to the Editor. For further information, telephone the Editor at 413-528-3454 evenings, or 528-9937 days.

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Our local artist this month: Bonner McAllester, p. 14.

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